

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates. The cable ownership

cap is a crucial element of our democratic media, and it should not be weakened.

Diversity of viewpoints is necessary for a thriving, participatory democracy. And yet the majority of media in this country is produced by a handful of companies. These companies put profit-making above the needs of the people. The more consolidated the media become, the harder it is for alternative and minority points of view to be heard in any meaningful way. There may be more television channels now, but if they're all owned by a handful of companies, all the programming is pretty much the same. And if all of the newspapers are owned by the same companies, especially the companies that own the cable & broadcast networks, all the news becomes the same. How can there be any meaningful public debate about anything? And how can anyone but the rich and powerful, in other words, the connected, get their voices heard?